

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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Zero Tolerance Roundtable Inaugural Meeting

*Representatives from Professional, College, and High School
Athletics Among Those to Discuss Eradicating Steroid Use*

What: House Government Reform Committee Zero Tolerance Roundtable
Media Availability

When: Thursday, July 7, 2005

Instructions: Media Availability will take place at approximately 10:15am
Check-in will be in the hallway outside of Room 2154
Please RSVP to Rob White or Drew Crockett
**Roundtable itself will begin at 9:00am.

Where: Room 2154, Rayburn House Office Building

Background:

Zero Tolerance was created at the Government Reform Committee's March 17, 2005, hearing "Restoring Faith in America's Pastime: Evaluating Major League Baseball's Efforts to Eradicate Steroid Use," to gather information, foster discussion, and provide recommendations on how to address the growing problem of steroid abuse by youth. The recommendations *could possibly include*: a plan for a public education campaign against steroid use; a determination as to whether all professional sports should adhere to a uniform drug testing policy; and how to create an environment that rejects steroid use as a means to enhance athletic capabilities.

On May 23, 2005, House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) joined Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling and a cross-section of representatives from the four major U.S. sports leagues, the medical community, and youth sports in a

conference call to set the stage for Zero Tolerance, which has been formed to address the growing problem of youth steroid abuse.

Participants in that call – including representatives from Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and the National Hockey League, and representatives from the labor unions of all four sports – discussed public education campaigns and other strategies to curtail illegal steroid use among young people.

More than 500,000 high school students – nearly triple the number from 10 years earlier – have tried steroids, according to a 2003 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Other studies have detailed steroid use by even younger children, with new reports focusing on the use of steroids by young girls as a way of improving their body image.

Participants scheduled to attend Thursday's meeting include representatives from professional sports leagues and unions, the NCAA, the National Federation of State High School Associations, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Partnership for a Drug Free America, medical experts, parents, and coaches.

Thursday's meeting is the first in a series of Zero Tolerance roundtables, which will be held across the country throughout the year.

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